

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 6-18, 21 and 22 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the December 13th personal interview. The substance of the discussions held are incorporated in the following remarks and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-5 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP 8-76038 to Yamazaki in view of JP 2001-174693 to Matsumoto. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neither Yamazaki nor Matsumoto alone or in combination disclose optical detecting units mounted on an optical housing via an intermediate member having a thermal expansion coefficient smaller than that of the optical housing as in independent Claims 1 and 19.

Instead, Yamazaki discloses that the coefficient of thermal expansion θ_1 of the base member is less than the coefficient of thermal expansion θ_2 of the intermediate member. See abstract of Yamazaki. Matsumoto discloses that the coefficient of linear expansion of the device main body is greater than the coefficient of linear expansion of plural intermediate members each having a coefficient of a linear expansion greater than the next intermediate member and finally greater than the sensor member. Thus, the disclosure of Matsumoto is the opposite of that of Yamazaki.

A prior art reference must be considered in its entirety including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention. W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc., 721 F.2d 154, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983) cert. denied 469 U.S. 851 (854). See M.P.E.P. § 2141.02. A proposed modification cannot render a prior art unsatisfactory for its intended purpose or change the principle of operation of a reference. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.01. It is improper to combine references where the references teach away from their combination. In

re Grasselli, 713 F.2d 731, 743, 218 USPQ 769, 779 (Fed. Cir. 1983). See also M.P.E.P.
§ 2145(X)(D).

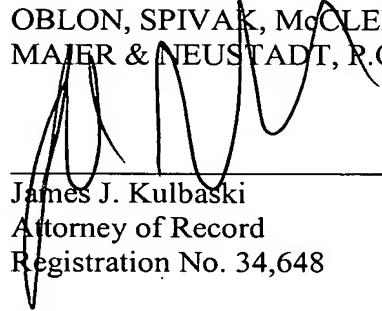
The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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